

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
 MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
 Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581
 (508) 792-7270 x 165

RARE PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Observer's Name, Address, and Phone:

Arthur Haines

Species Scientific Name: Gentianopsis crinita

NHESP Element Occurrence Number (if known):

Observation Date: 20 April 2000

Today's Date: 28 June 2000 and 7 September 2000
 (5 plants observed in flower to confirm ID from early summer)

LOCATIONAL INFORMATION

a) USGS Quad Name and Series (7.5"x7.5" or 7.5"x15"): Great Barrington (1:25,000)
 County: Berkshire
 Town: Sheffield

b) Directions to location of observations (please attach USGS map):

Follow Brush Hill Road (travels along west side of Threemile Pond) to its end at gate across road. Beyond gate, lies open agricultural fields with a hyacinth circumneutral meadow on either side of road. About 100 meters north of gate, on left (west) side of road, in open field (within 15 meters of road).

c) Habitat: (plant communities, associated vegetation, physical characteristics, geological features, surrounding land use.
 Are other rare species present?)

Juxtaposed Agricultural field, circumneutral meadow, and circumneutral shrub swamp.
 Plants sit in field with Podophyllum peltatum.

POPULATION INFORMATION:

Population found? (Y/N): Occurrence based on discovery of remnant fruiting stems discovered in spring.

If No, is population presumed extirpated and why?

If Yes,

Number of mature plants: 10

Number of immature plants:

Number of plants age unknown:

Population area (give unit of measurement):

Percent of population:

in leaf:

in bud:

in flower:

with immature fruit:

mature fruit:

senescent: 100%

Observations of floral visitors, fruit dispersers:

None observed

Vigor of individuals and population:

Unknown, but fruiting stems produced the previous season.

Evidence of expansion or decline:

Population Shifted from within field to in and along single lane road and decreased in size about 50%. This observation made by examining previous years fruiting stems to flowering individuals in the same year.

Have you observed this species at this site in previous years?

Please give details:

NO

SITE PHYSIOGRAPHY

Elevation: 286 m

Topographic position (crest, upper slope, mid slope, lower slope, bottom?):

Aspect (north, south, east, west, flat?):

Slope (0-20 degrees, 20-45 degrees, 45-75 degrees, vertical?):

Light (open, filtered, shade?):

Moisture (inundated, wet, mesic, dry, xeric?):

Soil types:

Surficial rock types (with percent of ground covered): none observed

Bedrock/parent material: unknown

Surficial water (distance away and source):

10 meters, wetland complex north of Threemile Pond.

MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

MNHESP Site Name (if any):

Managed Area (if any): Site may occur on private property adjacent to Threemile Pond State WMA.

Comments/Management recommendations:

Contact landowner to make him/her aware of plants.

Disturbance or threats (natural or unnatural) to population:

Disturbance to soil or site hydrology.

Land Owner's Name, Address, and Phone:

unknown

Ownership Comments:

ELEMENT OCCURRENCE (EO) SUMMARY

(Circle one choice in each category)

EO Quality

How representative is this occurrence? Consider the size and productivity of the population and the vitality and vigor of the individuals.

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Small population

EO Condition

Is the habitat supporting the EO pristine or degraded? Is there a potential for the habitat to recover from disturbances?

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Much of immediate area has been cleared for agricultural purposes.

Comments:

EO Viability

What are the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence at the indicated level of quality?

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Population small and demonstrating large fluctuations in location and numbers

EO Defensibility

Can this occurrence be protected from extrinsic human factors?

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Population occurs in mowed field and along single lane road.

EO RANK

A summary of all factors listed above.

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (if any)

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify under pains and penalties of perjury that the information contained in this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:

Ante Haines

Date:

4 January 2001

Please submit form, a copy of a USGS topo map showing plant location, and all supporting documentation to the State Botanist at:

Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Route 135
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 792-7270 ext 200

Thank you for contributing to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program database. Your efforts are valuable and appreciated.

